THE Earle of Gowries conspiracie against the Kings Maiestie of Scotland.

At Saint Iohn-stoun vpon Tuesday, *the fift of Auguſt.* 1600.



LONDON
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1600.

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A Discourse of the vnnaturall and vile conspiracie, attempted against his Maiesties person at Saint Iohnstoun vpon the fift day of August being Tuesday 1600.

HIs Maiestie hauing his residence at Falkland, & being daily at the buck-hunting (as his vse is in that season) vpon the fifth day of August, being Tuesday, he raide out to the Parke, betweene fiue and seuen of the clocke in the morning, the weather beeing wonderfull pleasant and seasonable. But before his Maiestie could leape on horse back, his Highnesse being now come downe by the Esquerie: all the gentlemen with the hounds attending his Maiestie on the green, and the Court making to their horses, as his Highnesse selfe was: Master Alexander Ruthven second brother to the late earle of Gowrie being then lighted in the towne of Falkland, hasted him fast forward to ouertake his Maiestie before his on-leaping, as he did. Where meeting his Highnesse, after a very lowe curtesie, bowing his head vnder his Maiesties knee, (although he was neuer wont to make so lowe courtesie) drawing his Maiestie aparte, he beginnes to discourse vnto him, but with a very deiected countenaunce, his eies euer fixed vpon the earth, howe that it chaunced him in the euening before, to be walking abroad about the fields, taking the ayre solitarie alone, without the Towne of saint Johnstoun, where his present dwelling with the Lorde his

brother was, there by accident affirmed to haue recountred a baſe like fellow, vnknowne to him, with a cloke caſt about his mouth: whome as he enquired his name, and what his errand was to be paſſing in ſo ſolitarie a part, being from al waies: the fellow became on a ſodaine ſo amazed, and his tongue ſo faultered in his mouth, that vppon his ſuſpitious behauiour he begonne more narrowly to look vnto him and examine him: and perceiuing that there appeared ſome thing to be hid vnder his cloke, he did caſt by the lappes of it, and ſo finds a great wide pot to be vnder his arme, all full of coyned gold in great peeces: aſſuring his maieſty that it was in very great quantity. Upõ the ſight whereof, as he affirmed, he tooke backe the fellow with his burthen to the towne, where he priuatly, without the knowlege of any man, tooke the fellow, and bound him in a priuy derned houſe: and after, locked many dores vpon him, and left him there and his pot with him, and had haſted himſelfe out of ſaint Johnſtoun that day by foure howers in the morning, to make his maieſtie aduertiſed thereof, accõding to his bound dutie: earneſtly requeſting his maieſtie with all diligence and ſecreſie that his maieſtie might take order therewith, before any knew therof: ſwearing and proteſting, that he had yet concealed it from all men; yea, from the earle his own brother. His maieſties firſt anſwere was (after thanking him for his good will) that it could not become his maieſty to meddle any waies in that matter, ſince no mans treaſure that is a free and lawful ſubiect can, by the law appertaine vnto the King, except it be found hid vnder the earth, as this was not. Whereunto he anſwered, that the fellow confeſſed vnto him that he was going to haue hid it vnder the ground, but coulde not take leaſure at that time to enquire any further of him. Whereunto his maieſtie replyed, that there was great difference betwixt a deede, and the intention of a deede: his intention to haue hid it, not being alike as if it had beene found already hidde. Maiſter Alexanders

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anſwere was, that hee thought his Maieſtie ouer ſcrupulous in ſuch a matter, tending ſo greatly to his maieſties profite: and that if his maieſtie deferred to meddle with it, that it might be, that the Lord his brother, and other great men might meddle with it, and make his maieſtie the more aboe. Whereupon the King beginning to ſuſpect that it had beene ſome forraine gold brought home by ſome Ieſuites for praatiſing Papiſtes (therewith to ſtirre vp ſome new ſedition as they haue oftentimes done before) inquired of the ſaid maiſter Alexander, what kinde of coyne it was, and what a fellowe he was that carried it. His anſwere was, that ſo farre as he could take leiſure to ſee of them, that they ſeemed to bee forraine ſtrokes of coyne, and although the fellowe, both by his language and fashions ſeemd to be a Scots felow, yet he could neuer remember that he had ſeene him before. Theſe ſpeaches increaſed his maieſties ſuſpition, that it was forraine coyne brought in by ſome practiſing Papiſtes, and to be diſtributed into the countrie, as is before ſayd: And that the fellow that carryed it, was ſome Scots Prieſt, or Seminarie ſo diſguiſed, for the more ſure tranſporting thereof.

Whereupon his maieſtie reſolued that he would ſend backe with the ſaid maiſter Alexander, a ſeruant of his owne, with a warrant to the Prouoſt and Bailiffes of Saint Iohnſton, to receiue both the fellow and the money of maiſter Alexanders hand, and after they had examined the fellow, to retaine him and the treaſure, till his maieſties further pleaſure was knowne.

Wherat the ſayd maiſter Alexander ſtirred maruellouſly: affirming and proteſting, that if eyther the Lorde his brother, or the Bailiffes of the towne were put on the counſaile thereof: his maieſtie would gette a verie baade count made to him of that treaſure, ſwearing that the great loue and affection hee bare vnto his Maieſtie, had made him to preferre his Maieſtie in this caſe, both vnto himſelfe and his brother. For the which ſeruice hee hum-

bly craued that recompence, that his maieſty would take the paynes once to ride thither, that he might be the firſt ſeer therof himſelfe: which being done, he woulde remit to his Maieſties owne honourable diſcretion, how farre it would pleaſe his Maieſtie to conſider vpon him for that ſeruice.

His Highneſſe being ſtricken in great admiration, both of the vncouthneſſe of the tale, and of the ſtrange and ſtupide behaviour of the Reporter: and the Court being already horſed, wondring at his Maieſties ſo long ſtay with that gentleman, the morning being ſo faire, the game already found, and the huntſmen ſo long ſtaying in the fields on his Maieſtie: he was forced to breake off, only with theſe words, that he could not now ſtay any longer from his ſport, but that he would conſider of the matter, and at the end of his chaſe, giue him a reſolute anſwere, what order he would take therein. Wherupon his Maieſtie parted in haſte from him towards the place where the game was.

Maiſter Alexander parting from his Maieſtie very miſcontent, that indelayedly he raide not to ſaint Johnſtoun as he deſired him: proteſting that his Maieſtie would not find euery day ſuch a choiſe of hunting, as he had offered to him, and that he feared that his Maieſties long delay and ſlowneſſe of reſolution, would breede leaſure to the fellow, who was lying bound, to cry, or make ſuch dinne, as woulde diſappoynt the ſecrecie of that whole purpoſe, and make both the fellow and the treaſure to be meddeled with, before any word could come from his Maieſty: as alſo, that his brother wold miſſe him, in reſpect of his abſence that morning, which if his maieſty had pleaſed to haſte, he might haue preuented: arriuing there in the time of his brothers & the whole townes being at the ſermon: whereby his Maieſtie might haue taken ſuch ſecret order with that matter, as he pleaſed, before their out-comming from the church. But his Maieſtie, without any further anſwering him, leaping on horſe backe, and riding to the dogs, where they were beginning to hunt, the

ſaid maiſter Alexander ſtayed ſtill in that place where he left his Maieſtie: and hauing two men with him, appointed by the Earle his brother, to carry backe vnto him the certayne newes in all haſte, of his Maieſties comming (as hereafter more particularly ſhall in this ſame diſcourſe be declared)

He directed the one of them called Andrew Henderſon, Chamberlaine to the ſaide Earle, to ride in all haſte to the Earle, commanding him, as he loued his brothers honor, that he ſhould not ſpare for ſpilling of his horſe, and that hee ſhould aduertiſe the Earle, that he hoped to mowe his Maieſtie to come thither, and that he ſhould not yet looke for hym, the ſpace of three houres thereafter, becauſe of his Maieſties hunting, adding theſe wordes: Pray my Lord my brother to prepare the dinner for vs. But his Maieſtie was no ſooner ridden vppe to a little hill aboue the little woodde, where the dogges were layde on in hunting: but that notwithſtanding the pleaſant beginning of the chaſe, he could not ſtay from muſing and wondering vpon the newes. Whereupon, without making any body acquainted with this purpoſe, finding John Nelmith Chirurgian, by chance riding beſide him, his Maieſtie directed him backe to bring maiſter Alexander with him: who being brought vnto his maieſtie, and hauing newly directed, as ſaid is, one of his men that was with him back to my Lord his brother, his Maieſtie vnknowing or ſuſpecting that any man liuing had come with him, then tolde him that he had beene aduiſing with himſelfe, and in reſpect of his laſt wordes in earneſt with him, he reſolued to ride thither for that arrand in his owne perſon, how ſoone the chaſe was ended, which was already begunne. Like as his Maieſtie, vpon the very ending of theſe wordes, did ride away in the chaſe, the ſaid maiſter Alexander following him at his backe: no other creature being with his Highnes, but he, and John Hamilton of Orange, one of his Maieſties maiſter-ſtablers, the reſt of the Court being all before in the chaſe, his Maieſtie onely being caſt backe vppon the ſtaying to ſpeake with

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maſter Alexander, as is before ſaid.

The chaſe laſted from about ſeauen of the clocke in the morning, vntill eleuen, and more, being one of the greateſt and ſorreſt chaſes that euer his maieſty was at: all which time the ſayde maiſter Alexander was (for the moſt part) euer at his maieſties backe, as is ſayd. But there neuer was any ſtop in the chaſe, or ſo ſmall a delay, that the ſayde maiſter Alexander omitted to round his maieſty, erneſtly requeſting him to haſten the end of the hunting, that he might ride the ſooner to ſaint Johnſtoun. So as at the death of the bucke, his maieſty, not ſtaying vpon the curry of the Diere, (as his vſe is) ſcarcely took time to alight, awayting vpon the comming of a freſh horſe to ride on, the greatnes of the chaſe hauing wearied his horſe.

But the ſayd maiſter Alexander would not ſuffer the king to ſtay in the parke where the bucke was killed, whiles his freſh horſe which was already ſent for, was brought out of the equery to him, (although it was not two ſlight ſhot off) but bounds betwixt the part where the buck was killed, and his maieſties equery: but with very importunity forced his maieſty to leap on agayne vpon that ſame horſe, that he had hunted all the day vpon, his freſh horſe being made to gallop a mile of the way to ouertake him: his maieſty not ſtaying ſo much as vpon his ſword, nor while the duke and the earle of Marre, wyth diuerſe other Gentlemen in his company had charged their horſe: Onely ſaying vnto them, that hee was to ride to ſaint Johnſtoun to ſpeake with the earle of Gowry, and that he would be preſently backe againe before euen.

Whereupon ſome of the Court galloped backe to Falkeland as faſt as they couldе, to chaunge their horſe, but could not ouertake his Maieſtie, vntill hee came within foure mile of ſaint Johnſtoun. Others rid forward with their horſes, wearied as they were, whereof ſome were compelled to alight by the way, and had they not both refreſhed

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their horſes, fedde them, and giuen them ſome graſſe by the way, they had not carried them to S. Iohnſtoun. The cauſe of his Maieſties ſeruaunts following ſo faſt, vndeſired by him, being only grounded vpon a ſuſpition they had conceiued that his Maieſties intention of ryding, was for the apprehenſion of the Maiſter of Oliphant, one who had late laid downe a vile & proud oppreſſion in Angus. For repairing of the which, they thought that his Maieſtie had ſome purpoſe for his apprehenſion.

But the ſaide Maiſter Alexander ſeeing the Duke and the Earle of Mar, with diuerſe other of the court, getting freſh horſe for following of his Maieſtie, earneſtly deſired him that he wold publiſh to his whole traine, that ſince he was to returne the ſame euening, as is before ſaid, they needed not to follow him, eſpecially that he thought it meeteſt that his Maieſtie ſhould ſtay the Duke & the Earle of Mar to follow him, and that he ſhould only take three or foure of his owne poore ſeruants with him, affirming that if any Nobleman followed him, he could not anſwere for it, but that they would marre that whole purpoſe.

Whereupon his Maieſtie halfe angry, replyed, that he would not miſtruſt the Duke nor the Earle of Mar in a greater purpoſe nor that, and that he could not vnderſtand what hinderance any man could make in that erand.

But theſe laſt ſpeeches of Maiſter Alexanders, made the King to begin to ſuſpect what it ſhould meane: whereupon many and ſundry thoughts began to enter into the Kings minde. But yet his Maieſtie could neuer ſuſpect any harme to be intended againſt his Highneſſe by that young Gentleman, with whom his Maieſtie had beene ſo well acquainted, as he had not long before beene in ſuite to be one of the Gentlemen of his Chamber: ſo as the fartheſt that the Kings ſuſpition could reach to, was, that it might be that the Earle his brother had handled him ſo hardly, that the young Gentleman being of a high ſpirit, had taken ſuch diſpleaſure, as he was become ſomewhat beſides himſelfe, which his Maieſtie coniectured as well by his rayſed and diſtracted ſtaring, and continuall penſiueneſſe all the time of the hunting: as

likewiſe, by ſuch ſtraunge ſort of vnlikely diſcourſes, as is alreadie mentioned.

Whereupon his Maieſtie tooke occaſion to make the Duke of Lennox acquainted with the whole purpoſe, enquiring of him very earneſtly what he knew of that young Gentlemans nature, beeing his brother in law: and if he had perceiued him to be ſubiect to any high apprehenſion, his Maieſtie declaring his ſuſpition plainely to the ſaid Lord Duke, that hee thought him not well ſetled in his wits: alwayes deſiring my Lord Duke not to faile to accompany him into that houſe, where the alleadged fellowe and treaſure was.

The Lord Duke wondred much at that purpoſe, and thought it very vnlikely: yet hee affirmed, that hee could neuer perceiue any ſuch appearance in that Gentlemans inclination. But Maiſter Alexander perceiuing his Maieſties priuie conference with the Duke, and ſuſpecting the purpoſe as it appeared, came to the King, requeſting his Maieſtie very earneſtly, that he ſhould make none liuing acquainted with that purpoſe, nor ſuffer none to goe with his Maieſtie where he ſhould conuoy him, but himſelfe onely, vntill his Maieſtie had once ſeene the fellowe and the Treaſure: whereunto his Maieſtie halfe-laughing, gaue anſwere, that he was no good teller of money, and behoued therefore to haue ſome to helpe him in that errand: his reply was, that he would ſuffer none to ſee it but his Maieſtie ſelfe at the firſt, but afterward he might call in whom he pleaſed. Theſe ſpeeches did ſo increaſe his Maieſties ſuſpition, that then he beganne directly to ſuſpect ſome treaſonable deuice. Yet many ſuſpitions and thoughts ouerwhelming euery one an other in his minde, his Maieſtie could reſolue vpon no certaine thing, but rode further on his iourny, betwixt truſt and diſtruſt, beeing aſhamed to ſeeme to ſuſpect, in reſpect of the cleanneſſe of his Maieſties owne conſcience, except he had found ſome greater ground. The ſaid Maiſter Alexander, ſtill preaſing the King to ride faſter, although his owne horſe was ſcarcely able to keepe company with the King for wearineſſe, hauing ridden with him all the

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chaſe before. But as the King was come two miles from Falkland, the ſaid Maiſter Alexander ſtayed a little behind the king in the way, and poſted away the other ſeruant Andrew Ruthven to the Earle his brother, aduertiſing him, how farre the king was on his way to come thither. Then how ſone ſoeuer the king came within a mile of the Towne of Saint Iohnſtoun, he ſaid to his Maieſtie, that he would poſte in before, to aduertiſe the Earle his brother of his Maieſties comming: Who at his incomming to him, was ſitting at the midſt of his Dinner, neuer ſeeming to take knowledge of the kings comming, vntill his Brother tolde it him, notwithſtanding that two of his ſeruants had aduertiſed him thereof before.

And immediately vpon his Brothers report, ryſing in haſte from the boorde, and warning all the ſeruaunts and friends to accompany him to meete his Maieſtie, who met him with the number of three or foure ſcore, at the ende of the Iuſh, his Maieſties whole company and traine, not exceeding the number of fifteene perſons, and all without any kinde of Armour, except Swordes, no not ſo much as Daggers or Whingears. His Maieſtie ſtayed an houre after his comming to the ſayde Earles lodging in Saint Iohnſtoun, before his Dinner came in. The longſomeneſſe of preparing the ſame, and badneſſe of the cheare, being excuſed vppon the ſuddainly comming of his Maieſtie vnlooked for there.

During the which time, his Maieſtie enquired of maiſter Alexander when it was time for him to goe to that priuate houſe about that matter whereof he had informed him: whoſe anſwere was, that all was ſure enough, but that there was no haſte yet for an houre, vntil his maieſtie had dyned at leiſure. Praying his maieſtie to leaue him, and not to be ſeene to round with him before his Brother, who hauing miſſed him that morning, might therevppon ſuſpect what the matter ſhould meane. Therefore his maieſtie addreſſed him to the Earle, and diſcourſed with him vpon ſundry matters, but could get no direct anſwere of him, but halfe words, and imperfect ſentences.

His Maieſtie being ſet downe to his Dinner, the ſaid Earle ſtood verie penſiue, and with a dejected countenance at the ende of his Maieſties Table, oft rounding ouer his ſhoulder, one whiles to one of his ſeruaunts, and another whiles to another: and oftentimes went out and in to the Chamber. Which forme of behauiour he likewiſe kept before his Maieſties ſitting downe to dinner. But without any welcomming of his Maieſtie, or any other hartie forme of entertainment.

The Noble men and Gentlemen of the Court that was with his Maieſtie ſtanding about the Table, and not deſired to dyne, as the vſe is when his Maieſtie is once ſet downe, and his firſt Seruice brought vp, vntil the Kinges Maieſtie had almoſt dyned. At the which time the Earle conuoyed them forth to their dinner, but ſatte not downe with them himſelfe, as the common manner is, but came backe and ſtood ſilent at the ende of the Kings Table, as he did before: which his Maieſtie perceiuing, did beginne to entertaine the Earle in a homely manner, wondering that hee had not remained to dyne with his Gueſts, and entertaine them there.

In the meane time his Maieſtie beeing readie to riſe from the Table, and all his ſeruaunts beeing in the Hall at their Dinner, the ſayd Maiſter Alexander, ſtanding behinde his Maieſties backe, pulled quietly vpon him, rounding in his Maieſties eare, that it was time to goe, but that hee would faine haue bene quit of the Earle his brother, wiſhing the King to ſend him out into the Hall to entertaine his Gueſts: whereupon the King called for drinke, and in a merrie and homely manner ſayd to the Earle, that although the Earle had ſeene the faſhion of entertainment in other Countries, yet hee would teach him the Scottiſh faſhion, ſeeing he was a Scottiſh man: and therefore ſince hee had forgot to drinke to his Maieſtie, or to ſit with his Gueſts and entertaine them, his Maieſtie would drinke to him his owne welcome, deſiring him to take it forth and drinke to the reſt of the company, and in his Maieſties name to make them welcome. Whereupon as he went forth, his Maieſtie did

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rise from the Table, and desired Maister Alexander to bring Maister Thomas Erskine with him, who desiring the king to goe forward with him, and promising that he should make any one or two follow him that he pleased to call for: desires his Maiestie to commaund publikely that none should follow him. And thus the king accompanied onely with the saide Maister Alexander, comes forth of the Chamber, passes through the end of the Hall where the Noblemen and his Maiesties seruaunts were sitting at their dinner, vp a Turnepyke, and through three or foure high Chambers, the said Maister Alexander euer locking behind him euery doore as he past, and then with a more smiling countenance nor he had all the day before, euer saying, he has himselfe and sate enough keper would at last, his Maiestie passing through foure or foure simtey houses, and all the doores locked behind him, his Maiestie entered into a little Studie, where he saw standing with a very abaste countenance, not a Noble-man, but a rude man, with a Dagger at his girdle. Which his Maiestie had no sooner entered into that little Studie, and Maister Alexander with him, but Maister Alexander locked the Studie doore behinde him, and at that instant changing his countenance, putting his hat on his head, and drawing the dagger from that other mans girdle, held the point of it to the kings breast, avowing now that the king behoued to be in his will, and vow as he list: swearing many bloody oathes, that if the king cryed one word, or opened a window to looke out, that dagger should presently go to his heart. Affirming that he was sure that now the kings conscience was burthened for the murthering of his father. His Maiestie wondering at so sodaine an alteration, and standing naked without any kinde of armour but his hunting hose, which he had not gotten leysure to lay from him, betwixt these two Traytors which had conspired his life: the said maister Alexander standing as is said, with a drawne Dagger in his hand, and his Sword at his side: but the other trembling and quaking, rather like one condemned, then an executioner of such an enterprise.

His Maiestie beginne then to dilate to the sayde Maister

Alexander, howe horrible a thing it was for him to meddle with his Maieſties innocent blood, aſſuring him it would not be left vnreuenged, ſince God had giuen him children and good ſubiects, and if there neither, God would rayſe vp ſtocks and ſtones to puniſh ſo vyle a deed.

Proteſting before God, that hee had no burthen in his conſcience for the execution of his Father: both in reſpect that at the time of his Fathers execution, his Maieſtie was but a minor of age, and guyded at that time by a Faction which ouer-ruled both his maieſtie, and the reſt of the Countrey: as alſo that whatſoeuer was done to his Father, it was done by the ordinary courſe of Lawe and Juſtice.

Appealing the ſayd maiſter Alexander vppon his conſcience, how well hee at all times ſince had deſerued at the handes of all his race, not only hauing reſtored them to all their landes and dignities, but alſo in nourriſhing and bringing vp of two or three of his Siſters, as it were in his owne boſome, by a continuall attendance vpon his maieſties deareſt bedfellow, in her priuy Chamber.

Laying alſo before him the terrors of his conſcience, eſpecially that hee made profeſſion according to his education, of the ſame Religion which his maieſtie had euer profeſſed: and namely, his maieſtie remembred him of that holy man, maiſter Robert Rollock, whoſe Scholler hee was, aſſuring him that one day the ſayd maiſter Roberts ſoule would accuſe him, that he had neuer learned of him to practiſe ſuch vnnaturall cruelties. His maieſtie promiſing to him on the word of a Prince, that if he would ſpare his life, and ſuffer him to goe out againe, he would neuer reueale to any fleſh liuing, what was betwixt them at that time, nor neuer ſuffer him to incurre any harme or puniſhment for the ſame.

But his maieſties feare was, that he could hope for no ſparing at his handes: hauing ſuch cruelties in his lookes, and ſtanding ſo irreuerently couered with his Hat on, which forme of rygorous behauiour, could prognoſticat nothing to his maieſtie, but

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preſent extremitie. But at his maieſties perſwaſius language, he appeared to be ſomewhat amazed, and vncouering his head againe, ſwore and proteſted that his maieſties life ſhould be ſafe, if he would behaue himſelfe quietly, without making noyes or crying: and that he would only bring in the Earle his brother, to ſpeake with his maieſtie: whereupon his maieſtie enquiring what the Earle would do with him, ſince (if his maieſties life were ſafe according to promiſe) they could gaine little in keeping ſuch a priſoner.

His anſwere onely was, that he could tell his maieſtie no more, but that his life ſhould be ſafe, in caſe he behaued himſelfe quietly, the reſt the Earle his brother whom he was going to, would tell his maieſtie at his comming. And with that as he was going forth to his brother, as he affirmed, he turned him about to the other man, laying theſe words vnto him, I make you here the kings keeper vntill I come back againe, and loke that ye keep him vpon your owne perill: and there withall ſayes to his maieſtie, ye muſt content your ſelfe to haue this man hold your keeper vntill my comming backe.

And with theſe words he paſſes forth, locking the doore after him, and leauing his maieſtie with that man he found there beſide him. Of whom his maieſtie enquired, if he were appointed to be the murtherer of him at that time, and why? anſwered he was vpon the counſell of that conſpiracie, whoſe anſwere with a trembling and aſtoniſhed voyce and behauiour was, that as the Lord ſhould iudge him, he was neuer made acquainted with that purpoſe, but that he was put in there priuily, and the doore locked vpon him, a little ſpace before his maieſties comming: as indeed it was: and of the ſame matter A. Alexander aſſuring his maieſtie, he was ſtill trembling, requeſting him for Gods ſake, and with many other atteſtations, not to meddle with his maieſtie, nor to do him any harme. But becauſe M. Alexander had before his going forth made the king to ſweare, he ſhould not (by no meanes) open any window, his maieſtie commanded the ſame to be open the window on his right hand, whereby he could view all [illegible] he was put in there to vſe violence on the king, yet God

in

ſo turned his heart at that time, as he became a ſlaue to his priſoner.

While his Maieſtie was in this daungerous eſtate, and none of his owne ſeruaunts nor traine knowing in what part of the world he was in, as his Maieſties traine was aryſing in the Hall from their Dinner, the Earle of Gowry being preſent with them, one of the Earle of Gowries ſeruants comes haſtily in, aſſuring the Earle his maiſter, that his Maieſtie was horſed and away through the Inſhe, which the Earle repeating to the Noble men, and the reſt of his Maieſties traine that was there preſent, they all ruſht out together at the Gate in great haſte: and ſome of his Maieſties ſeruaunts enquiring of the Porter when his Maieſtie went forth? The Porter affirmed that the King was not yet gone forth. Whereupon the ſayde Earle loked very angerly vpon him, and ſayde hee was but a lyar: yet turning him to the Duke, and to the Earle of Mar, ſayd, hee ſhould preſently get them ſure word where his Maieſtie was. And with that ranne through the cloſe, and vp the ſtaires.

But his purpoſe indeed was, to ſpeake with his Brother, as appeared very well by the circumſtance of the time, but hee that hauing at that ſame inſtant left the King in the little Study, and runne downe the ſtaires in great haſte.

Immediately thereafter, the Earle commeth backe running againe to the Gate where the Noble men, and the reſt were ſtanding in a maze, ſaying them that the King was out long ſince at the backe Gate, and if they haſted them not all the ſooner, they ſhould not get him ouertaken. And with that called for his Horſe, whereupon they ruſht altogether out at the Gate, and makes towardes the Inſhe, crying all for their Horſes.

Paſſing all (as it was the prouidence of GOD) vnder one of the Windowes of that Study, wherein his Maieſtie was. To whom maiſter Alexander very ſpeedily returned, and at his incourning to his Maieſtie, caſting his hands abroad in a deſperate

perate maner, ſaide, he could not mend it, his Maieſty behoued to die: and with that, offered a garter to bind his maieſties hands with ſwearing, he behoued to be bound. His maieſty, at that word of binding, ſaid, he was borne a free K. and ſhould die a free king. Whereupon he griping his Maieſty by the wreſt of the hand, to haue bound him, his maieſty releaued himſelfe ſodainely of his grippes: whereupon, as hee putte hys right hand to his ſword, his maieſty with his right hand ſeazed vppon both his hand and his ſworde, and with his left hand claſped him by the throat, like as hee with his left hand claſpt the king by the throat, with two or three of his fingers in his Maieſties mouth, to haue ſtayed him from cryeng. In this manner of wreſtling his maieſty perforce drew hym to the wyndowe, which hee had cauſed the other man before to open vnto hym, and vnder the which was paſſing by at the ſame tyme, the Kings trayne, and the earle of Gowry wyth them, as is ſayde, and holding out the right ſide of his head, and right elbow, cryed, that they were murthring him there in that treaſonable forme: whoſe voice beyng inſtantly heard and knowne by the Duke of Lenner, the earle of Marre, and the reſt of his maieſties traine there, but the ſayd earle of Gowry euer aſking what it meant, and neuer ſeeming any wayes to haue ſeene his maieſty, or heard his voyce, they all ruſhed in at the gate together, the Duke and the earle of Marre runnyng about to come by that paſſage his maieſty came in at. But the earle of Gowry and his ſeruauntes made them for an other way vppe a quyet Turne-pyke, which was euer condemned before, and was onely then left open, (as appeared) for that purpoſe.

And in this meane tyme, his maieſty, wyth ſtruggeling and wraſtling wyth the ſaid maiſter Alexander, had brought him perforce out of that ſtudy, the dore whereof, for haſte, he had left open at his laſt in-comming, and his maieſtie hauing gotten, (with long ſtrugling) the ſayde maiſter Alexanders head vnder his arme, and himſelfe on his knees, his Ma. droue him backe perforce hard to the dore of the ſame

pike, and as his maieſtie was throwing his ſword out of his hand, thinking to haue ſtricken him therewith, and then to haue ſhotte him ouer the ſtaire, the other fellow ſtanding behinde the Kinges backe, and doing nothing but trembling all the time, Sir Iohn Ramſay, not knowing what way firſt to enter, after he had heard the Kinges cry, by chance findes that Turn-pike dooze open, and folowing it vp to the head, enters in into the chamber, and findes his maieſtie and maiſter Alexander ſtruggling in that forme, as is beſore ſayde: and after he had twiſe or thriſe ſtricken maiſter Alexander with his dagger, the other man withdrew himſelfe, his maieſtie ſtill keeping his gripes, and holding him cloſe to him: immediatly thereafter he tooke the ſayd maiſter Alexander by the ſhoulders, and ſhotte him downe the ſtaire: who was no ſooner ſhotte out at the dooze, but hee was met by Sir Thomas Erskine and Sir Hew Hereis, who there vpon the ſtaire ended him: the ſayde Sir Thomas Erskine being caſt behind the Duke and the Earle of Mar that ran about the other way, by the occaſion of his medling with the ſayde late Earle in the ſtreete, after the hearing of his maieſties crie. For vppon the hearing thereof, hee had claſped the Earle of Gowrie by the gorget, and caſting him vnder his feete, and wanting a dagger to haue ſtricken him with, the ſayd Earls men rid the Earle their maiſter out of his handes: whereby he was caſt behinde the reſt, as is ſayd; and miſſing the companie, and hearing the ſayde Sir Iohn Ramſayes voyce vpon the Turn-pike head, ran vp to the ſayd Chamber, and cryed vpon the ſayd Sir Hew Hereis and another ſeruant to follow him: where, meeting with the ſayd maiſter Alexander in the Turne-pike, he ended him there, as is ſayde: the ſayd maiſter Alexander crying for his laſt wordes, Alas I had not the witte of it. But no ſooner could the ſayde Sir Thomas, Sir *Hew*, and another ſeruaunt winne into the Chamber where his maieſtie was, but that the ſayde Earle of Gowrie, beſore they could gette the dooze ſhut, followed them in at the backe, hauing caſt him directly to come vp

that

that priuy paſſage, as is before ſaid: who at his firſt entrie, hauing a drawne ſword in euery hand, and a ſteel bonnet on his head, accompanied with ſeuen of his ſeruants, euery one of them hauing in like manner a drawne ſword, cried out with a great oath, that they ſhould all die as traitors. All the which time his maieſtie was ſtill in the chamber, who ſeing the earle of Gowrie come in with his ſwords in his hands, ſought for maiſter Alexanders ſworde which had fallen from him at his out ſhutting at the doore, hauing no ſort of weapons of his owne, as is ſaid: but then was ſhut back by his owne ſeruantes that were there, into the little ſtudie, and the doore ſhut vpon him: who hauing put his maieſtie in ſafetie, re-encountred the ſayde Earle and his ſeruantes, his maieſties ſeruants being onely in number foure, to wit, Sir Hew Herris, Sir John Ramſay, and one Wilſonne a ſeruant of James Erſkines, a brother of the ſayd Sir Thomas, the ſayd Earle hauing ſeuen of his owne ſeruants with him: Yet it pleaſed God after many ſtrokes on all handes to giue his Maieſties ſeruantes the victorie, the ſayd Earle of Gowrie being ſtricken dead with a ſtroke through the heart, which the ſayd Sir John Ramſay gaue him, without once crying vpon God, and the reſt of his ſeruants dung ouer the ſtaire with many hurts, as in like manner the ſaid ſir Thomas Erſkin, ſir Hew Herris, and ſir John Ramſay, were all three hurt and wounded. But all the time of this fight, the duke of Lennox, the Earle of Mar, and the reſt of his maieſties traine, were ſtriking with great hammers at the vtter doore, whereby his maieſtie paſſit vp to the chamber with the ſaid maiſter Alexander, which alſo he had locked in his by-comming with his maieſtie to the chamber: but by reaſon of the ſtrength of the ſaide double doore, the whole wal being likewiſe of boordes, and yelding with the ſtrokes: it did bide them the ſpace of halfe an houre and more, before they could get it broken and haue entreſſe. Who hauing met with his maieſtie, found (beyond their expectation) his maieſtie deliuered from ſo imminent a peril, and the ſayde

late Earle the principall conſpirator lying dead at his Maieſties feete. Immediatly thereafter his maieſty kneeling downe, on his knees, in the midſt of his owne ſeruants, and they all kneeling rounde about him: his maieſty out of his owne mouth thanked God of that miraculous deliuerance and victory, aſſuring himſelfe, that God had preſerued him from ſo diſpaired a perill, for the perfiting of ſome greater worke behind to his glorie, & for procuring by him the weale of his people, that God had committed to his charge. After this the tumult of the towne hearing of the ſlaughter of the ſaid earle of Gowrie their Prouoſt, and not knowing the manner thereof, nor being on the counſell of his treaſonable attempt, continued for the ſpace of twoo or three houres thereafter, vntill his maieſtie by oft ſpeaking out to them at the windowes, and beckoning to them with his owne hand, pacifying them, cauſing the Bailies and the reſt of the honeſt men of the towne to be brought into the chamber, to whome hauing declared the whole forme of that ſtrange accident, he committed the houſe and bodies of the ſaid traitours brethren, to their keeping, vntill his maieſties further pleaſure were knowne. His maieſtie hauing before his parting out of that towne, cauſed to ſearch the ſaid earle of Gowries pockets, in caſe any letters that might further the diſcouery of that conſpiracy might bee founde therein. But nothing was founde in them, but a little cloſe parchment bag, full of Magicall characters, and wordes of inchantment, wherein it ſeemed that hee had put his confidence, thinking himſelfe neuer ſafe without them, and therefore euer caried them about with him: being alſo obſerued, that while they were vpon him, his wound whereof he died, bled not, but incontinent after the taking of them away, the blood guſhed out in great abundance, to the great admiration of all the beholders. An infamy which hath followed and ſpotted the race of this houſe, for many diſcents, as is notorioufly knowne to the whole countrie. Thus the night was farre ſpent, being neere eight houres at euening be-

fore

fore his maieſtie could (for the great tumult that was in the towne) depart out of the ſame. But before his maiеſtie had ridden foure myles out of the ſame towardes Falkland, although the night was very darke and rainy: the whole way was clad with all ſort of people, both horſe and foote, meeting him with great ioy and acclamation. The frequencie and concurſe of perſons of all degrees to Falkland the reſt of the weeke, and to Edenburgh the next, from all the quarters of the countrie, the teſtimony of the ſubiectes hearty affection and ioy for his maieſties deliuerie, expreſſed euery where, by ringing of bels, boneffers, ſhuting off guns of all ſortes both by ſea and land &c. with all other things enſuing thereupon, I haue of ſet purpoſe pretermitted, as well knowne to all men, and unpertinent to this diſcourſe: contenting my ſelfe with this plaine and ſimple narration: adding onely for explanation and confirmation thereof, the depoſitions of certaine perſons, who were either actors, and eie-witneſſes, or immediate hearers of thoſe thinges that they declare and teſtifie: wherein if the Reader ſhall find any thing differing from this narration, either in ſubſtance or circumſtance, he may underſtand the ſame to be uttered by the deponer in his owne behoofe, for obtaining of his maieſties priuiledge grace and fauor.

Apud Falkland. 9. Auguſt. 1600.

In preſence of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treaſurer, Lorde Secretary, Lord Comptroller, Lord Aduocate, the Lord Inchetfray, and Sir George Home of Spot Knights.

IAmes Meimis of Bogy of the age of 26. yeere or therby, ſworne & examined vpon the forme & maner of behauior of late

late Iohn Erle of Gowrie, the time of his being with him at Strabran, or if he had heard the ſayd Earle make any motion of the treaſon intended againſt his roial maieſtie, Depones that he neither heard nor ſawe any appearance of any ſuch intention in the ſayd Earle.

Demaunded, if he was in any purpoſe with the ſaid earle, againſt any matters of curioſitie: Depones, that at their being in Strabran, ſome of their companie found an Edder, which being killed, and knowledge thereof comming to the Earle, the Earle ſayde to this deponer, Bogy, if the Edder had not beene ſlaine, yee ſhould haue ſeene a good ſport: for if I ſhould haue cauſed her ſtand ſtill, and ſhee ſhould not haue prelled away, by pronouncing of an Hebrewe worde, which in Scottiſh is called Holineſſe, but the Hebrew word the deponer remembers not of: and that the Earle ſayde hee had put the ſame in practiſe oft before. And this deponer enquiring of the Earle where he did get the Hebrew word, the Earle anſwered, in a Cabbaliſt of the Iewes, and that it was by Tradition: and the deponer inquiring what a Cabbaliſt meaned: the Earle anſwered, it was ſome wordes which the Iewes had by Tradition, which wordes were ſpoken by God to Adam in Paradice, and therefore were of greater effecacie and force than any words which were excogitate ſince by Prophetes and Apoſtles. The deponer inquiring if there were no more requiſite but the worde: The Earle anſwered, that a firme faith in God was requiſite and neceſſary: and that this was no matter of marvell amongſt ſchollers, but that all theſe things were naturall. And that the Earle ſhewed to this deponer that he had ſpoken with a man in Italie, and firſt hearing by report that he was a Nigromancer, and thereafter beeing informed that hee was a very learned man and a deepe Theologue, hee entered in further dealing with him againſt the curioſitie of nature.

Depones further that the ſayde Earle reported to him that hee beeing at Muſicke, hee fell in companie with another man, who ſtaring in the Earles face, ſpake to the reſt of the com-

companie thinges of him, which he could neuer attaine vnto, nor bee worthy of: and therefore that the Earle reproached him, and deſired him to forbeare theſe ſpeeches. And that he met againe with the ſaid man in a like company, who did begin with the ſame language which hee had ſpoken before: and that the Earle ſayd to him, my friend, in caſe yée will not holde your peace from ſpeaking lies of mée, I will make you hold your peace by ſpeaking truth of you, and ſaid vnto him within ſuch a ſpace hee ſhould be hanged for ſuch a crime: and ſo it came to paſſe. This deponer inquiring of the Earle who told him that, he anſwered merrily, that he ſpake it by gueſſe, and it fell out ſo. And that the Earle ſayd further, that it was nothing to make an hearbe flеſhe which would diſſolue in flies: and that likewiſe it was poſſible that the ſeed of man and woman, might be brought to perfection otherwiſe then by the matrix of the woman: and that this deponer counſelled the Earle to beware with whom hee did communicate ſuch ſpeeches: who anſwered, that hee would ſpeake them to none, but to great ſchollers, and that he would not haue ſpoken them to this deponer, if he had not knowne him to bee a fauorer of him, and a friend of his houſe, and would not reueale the ſame againe, ſeeing hee knewe they would be euill interpreted amongſt the common ſorte.

Sic ſubſcribitur. I. Weimys of Bogie.

Apud Falkland. 20. *Auguſt.* 1600.

In preſence of the Lordes Chancellour, Treaſurer, Aduocate: Sir George Home of Spot, Sir Robert Meluill, and Sir Iames Meluill Knights.

Maiſter William Rynd, ſworne and examined, and demaunded where he firſt did ſée the Characters which were found vppon my Lord: deponeſ, that he hauing remained a ſpace in Venice,

nice, at his returning to Padua, did find in my Lordes pocket, the characters which were found vpon him at his death: and the deponer enquyring of my lord, where he had gotten them, my Lord anſwered, that by chance he had copied them himſelfe: and that the deponer knowes that the Characters in latine are my Lords owne hand-writing, but he knowes not if the hebrew characters were written by my Lord. Depones further, that when my lord would change his clothes, the deponer would take the characters out of my Lords pocket, and would ſay to my Lord, Wherefore ſerues theſe: and my Lord would anſwer, Can ye not let them be: they do you no euill. And further, the deponer declares, that ſomtimes my Lord would forget them, vntil he were out of his chamber, and would turne backe, as he were in an anger, vntil he had found them, and put them in his owne pocket: Depones further, that he was ſundry tymes purpoſed to haue burnt the characters, were it not that he feared my Lordes wrath and anger, ſeing when the Deponer would purpoſly leaue them ſometimes out of my Lordes pocket, my Lorde would be in ſuch an anger with the Deponer, that for a certayne ſpace he woulde not ſpeake with him, nor coulde not finde his good countenaunce: and that (to this deponers opinion) my Lord would neuer be content to want the characters of himſelfe from the firſt time that the deponer ſawe them in Padua, to the houre of my Lords death.

Being demaunded for what cauſe my Lord kept the characters ſo well, depones, that to his opinion, it was for no good, becauſe he heard, that in thoſe partes, where my Lord was, they would giue ſundry folkes bræues.

Depones further, that maiſter Patricke Galloway ſette this deponer ſee the characters, ſince that hee came to this towne of Falkland, and that he knowes them to be the very ſame characters which my Lord had. Depones alſo, that on monday the fourth of Auguſt, the maiſter, Andrew Henderſon, & the deponer remained in my lords chãber til about ten houres at euen, & after a long conference betwixt the lord

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and the maſter, my Lord called for Andrew Henderſon, & after ſome ſpeeches with him, diſmiſſed them.

Denies that he knew of the maſters or Andrew Hendersons riding to Falkland, and after Andrewes returne from Falkland vpon the morrow, howbeit he did ſee him bwted, yet he knew not that he was come from Falkland.

Depones that my lord being at dinner when the Maſter came in, the deponer heard my Lord ſay to the Maſter, is the King in the Inſche? and with that he did riſe, and ſaid, let vs goe. But the deponer knowes not what the Maiſter ſaid to my Lord.

Being demaunded if he did ſee any kind of armour or weapons, except ſwords, in the Kings companie, depones that he did ſee none.

It being demaunded how the deponer was ſatiſfied with my lords anſwer made to him, concerning the Kings comming to ſaint Johnſtoun, ſaying that hee knewe not how he came: declares that he thought that my Lord had diſſembled with him, and that he behoued to haue knowne it, ſeeing his brother was come with his Maieſtie before that he demanded of him, and that he had conferred with my Lorde priuily.

Depones that he knew not that the maſter was ridden to Falkland, vntil after his maieſties comming to ſaint Johnſtoun, that Andrew Ruthwen told him, becauſe the deponer inquired of Andrew Ruthwen where the maſter and he had bin, and that Andrew anſwered, they had bæn in Falkland: & that the maſter hauing ſpoken with the King, his maieſty came forward with them, and that this conference betwixt the deponer and Andrew Ruthwen was in the yard when my lord was there. And Andrew Ruthwen ſhewed to the deponer, that Andrew Henderſoun was directed by the maſter, to ſhew my lord, that his maieſtie was comming.

Depones alſo, that in his opinion, the maſter could not haue drawne the King to my Lordes houſe, without my Lordes knowledge: and that when hæ heard the tumult,

he was reſolued in his heart the maiſter had done his maieſty wrong, and that no true chriſtian can thinke otherwiſe, but that it was an high treaſon, attempted againſt his highneſſe by the maiſter and the Lord.

Depones alſo, that to his opinion, the Kings whole company was within a dozen of men.

Sic ſubſcribitur. *M.W.Rynd.*

22. Auguſt. 1600.

Maiſter William Rind ſwoꝛne and re-examined, if euer he heard the Earle of Gowrie vtter his opinion, anent the duetie of a wiſe man, in the execution of an high enterpꝛiſe: declares, that being out of the countrey, he had diuerſe times heard him reaſon in that matter, and that he was euer of that opinion, that he was not a wiſe man, that hauing intended the execution of an high and dangerous purpoſe, communicate the ſame to any but to himſelfe, becauſe keeping it to himſelfe, it could not be diſcouered noꝛ diſappointed: which the deponer declared beforꝛe vnrequired to the Controller, and maiſter William Cowper miniſter at Perth: and hearing the depoſitions of Andrew Hendeꝛſoun read, and being enquired vpon his conſcience, what he thought of the fact that was committed againſt his maieſtie, declares, that vpon his ſaluation, that he beleeues Andrew Hendeꝛſon has declared the circumſtances truly.

Sic ſubſcribitur. *M.W.Rynd.*

Apud Falkland. 20. *Auguſt.* 1600.

In preſence of the Lordes Chancellour, Treaſurer, Aduocat, Controller, and ſir George Home of Spot, ſir Iames Meluil Knights.

ANdrew Hendeꝛſoun ſwoꝛne and examined, & demanded, what purpoſe was betwixt him & the erle of Gowrie,

rie, vpon monday at night the fourth of this inſtant in the ſaid Earles chamber: depones, that the earle inquired of him what he would be doing vpon the morne, and he anſwered that he was to ride to Ruthwen: the earle ſaid to him, you muſt ride to Falkland with maſter Alexander my brother, and when he directs you backe, ſee that ye returne with all diligence, if he ſend a letter or any other aduertiſement with you.

Depones, that the maſter directed him to ſend for Andrew Ruthwen to be in readineſſe, to ride with them the morrow at foure houres in the morning.

Declares, that they comming to Falkland about ſeuen houres in the morning, the maſter ſtaied in a lodging beſide the Pallace, and directed the deponer, to ſee what the king was doing, and the deponer finding his maieſtie in the cloſe comming forth, he paſſt backe, and told the maſter, who immediatly addreſſed himſelfe to his Highneſſe, and ſpake with his maieſtie a good ſpace beneth the Equirie: and after his maieſtie was on horſe backe, the Maiſter commeth to the Deponer, and commaunds him to fetch their horſes, and bade him haſte him, as he loued my Lordes honour and his, and aduertiſe my Lord, that his Maieſtie and he would be there incontinent, and that his maieſtie would be quiet: and the deponer inquiring of the maſter if he ſhould go preſentlie, he did bid him leape on and follow him, and not to goe away vntil he ſpake with the King: and the maiſter hauing ſpoken with the King, at a breach of the Park wal, he turned backe and bade the deponer ride away, and the deponer making his returne in all poſſible haſte to Saint Iohnſtoun, he found my lord in his chamber about ten houres, who left the companie he was ſpeaking with, and came to the deponer, and aſked, hath my brother ſent a letter with you: the deponer anſwered, no: but they will be al here incontinent, and bade the deponer deſire my lord, to cauſe prepare the dinner. Imediatly thereafter, my lord tok the deponer to the cabinet, & aſked at him, how his maieſty tok with ȳ maſter his brother: ȳ de-

poner anſwered very well, and that his Maieſtie laide his hand ouer the maiſters ſhoulder. Thereafter my Lord enquired if there were many at the hunting with the King: the deponer anſwered, that he toke no heede, but they who were accuſtomed to ride with his maieſtie, and ſome Engliſhmen were there: and that my Lorde inquired what ſpeciall men were with his maieſtie, and that the deponer anſwered, he did ſée none but my Lord Duke. And within an houre thereafter, when the deponer came in from his owne houſe, the Earle bade him putte on his ſecret and plaite-ſleeues, for hee had an hy-land man to take, which the deponer did incontinent: and about twelue houres, when the Deponer was going out to his owne houſe to his dinner, the ſteward came to him and told him, that George Cragingelt, was not wel, and was laine downe, deſired him to tarry and take vp my Lordes dinner: and about halfe an houre after twelue, my Lord commanded him to take vp the firſt ſeruice. And when the deponer was commaunded to take vp the ſecond ſeruice, the maiſter and William Blaire came into the Hall to my Lord.

The deponer remembreth himſelfe, that Andrew Ruthwen came before the maiſter a certain ſpace, and ſpake with my Lorde quietly at the table, but heard not the particular purpoſe that was amongſt them. And ſo ſone as the maiſter came to the Hall, my Lord and the whole company roſe from the table: and the deponer hearing the noyſe of their forthgoing, ſuppoſed they were going to make breaker for Maconilduy: and the Deponer ſent his boy for his gantlet and ſteile-bonnet: and ſeeing my Lorde paſſe to the Inſhe and not to the ſhoe gate, the deponer did caſt the gauntlet in the Pantry, and cauſed his boy to take his ſteele-bonnet to his owne houſe: and he followed my Lord to the Inſhe, and returning backe with his Maieſtie to the lodging, being directed to get drinke. And the maiſter came to the deponer, and did bid him cauſe maiſter William Rinde to lende him vp the keye of the Galerie chamber, who paſt vp & deliuered

the

the key to the maiſter: and immediatly my Lorde followed vp, and did ſpeake with the maiſter, and came down againe, and directed maiſter Thomas Cranſtone to the deponer, to come to his Lordſhip in his Maieſties chamber. And that my Lord directed him to go vp to the Gallery to his brother: and immediatly my Lord followed vp, and commanded the deponer to bide there with his brother, and to do any thing that he bade him: The deponer enquired at the maiſter what haue ye to do ſir: the maiſter anſwered, ye muſt go in heere, and tarry vntill I come backe, for I will take the key with me. So he locked the deponer in the round within the chamber, and tooke the key with him. Shortly thereafter, the maiſter returned, and the kings Maieſtie with him to the ſaid cabinet in the round: and the maiſter opening the doore, entered with the King into the ſaid rounde: and at his verie entrie couering his head, pulled out the deponers dagger, and held the ſame to his Maieſties breaſt, ſaying: Remember ye of my fathers murther: ye ſhall now die for it: and minting to his Highnes heart with the dagger, the deponer threw the ſame out of the maiſters hand: and ſwore, that as God ſhall iudge his ſoule, if the maiſter had retained the dagger in his hand the ſpace that a man may goe fiue ſteps, he would haue ſtricken the King to the hiltes with it: but wanting the dagger, and the Kinges maieſty giuing him a gentle anſwere, he ſaid to the kinges maieſty with abhominable oathes, that if he would keepe ſilence, nothing ſhoulde aile him, if he would make ſuch promiſe to his brother, as they would craue of him: and the kinges maieſty inquiring what promiſe they would craue: he anſwered that he would bring his brother. So he goes forth, and lockes the doore of the round vpon his maieſty and the deponer: hauing firſt taken oath of the king that he ſhould not crie, nor open the windowe.

And his maieſty inquiring of the deponer what he was: he anſwered, a ſeruant of my Lords. And his maieſty aſking of the deponer, if my Lord would doe any euill to him: the

deponer anſwerd, as God ſhal iudge my ſoul, I ſhal die firſt. And the deponer preſſing to haue opened the windoe, the M. entred, and ſaid: Sir, there is no remedie, By God you muſt die: and hauing a loſe garter in his hand, preſſed to haue bound his maieſties handes, and the deponer pulled the garter out of maiſter Alexander his hand. And then the maiſter did put one of his handes in his maieſties mouth, to haue ſtayed him to ſpeake, and helde his other arme about his highneſſe necke: and that this deponer pulled the maiſters hand from his highneſſe mouth, and opened the windowe: and then his maieſtie cryed out thereat, whereuppon his highneſſe ſeruant came in at the gate, and this deponer did runne and open the doore of the Turnepecke head, whereat Iohn Ramſay entered: and the deponer ſtode in the Chamber vntill he did ſée Iohn Ramſay giue the maiſter a ſtroke: and thereafter priuily conueyed himſelfe downe the Turnepecke to his owne houſe: and the deponers wife enquiring of him, what the fray meaned: the deponer anſwered, that the kings maieſtie would haue béene twice ſticked, had not hée releeued him.

Sic ſubſcribitur Andrew Henderſon
with my hand.

Further

Further, the ſaide Andrew Henderſoun Depones, that after his returning from Falkland on the fift of this inſtant, Maiſter Iohn Montcrief enquiring of him where hee had beene? He anſwered, that he had beene beyond the bridge of Erne, and ſayes that he gaue that anſwer to maiſter Iohn, becauſe my Lord commaunded him to let no man know that he was to ride to Falkland: and that my Lordes direction to him, was, to come backe with his brother maiſter Alexanders anſwere, and to leaue Andrew Ruthwen to awaite vpon the maiſter.

Sic ſubſcribitur Andrew Henderſoun
with my hand.

Further, the ſayde Andrew Henderſon Depones, that when he had taken the maiſters hand out of [illegible] maieſties mouth, and was opening the windoe, Maiſter Alexander ſayde to him, wilt thou not helpe? Woe betyde thee, thou wilt make vs all die.

Sic ſubſcribitur Andrew Henderſoun
with my hand.

FINIS.

[illegible] Andrew [illegible]

[illegible] from Falkland [illegible]

[illegible] Montrose [illegible]

[illegible] Aberdeen, [illegible]

[illegible] that he came [illegible]

[illegible] communicate to him [illegible]

[illegible] to Falkland: and [illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] back [illegible]

[illegible] Andrew [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Andrew [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]